

MOBILE - U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, today announced the award of funding to the Helwestern Volunteer Fire Department from the United States Department of Homeland Security and the United States Fire Administration (USFA). The grant, totaling \$43,147, is being made available through the USFA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and will be used for the purpose of operations and firefighter safety.

"I am extremely pleased the Department of Homeland Security has approved this funding for the Helwestern Volunteer Fire Department," Bonner said. "The Helwestern area and its residents are to be strongly commended for their efforts in recent years to strengthen their own department and, through that process, provide a greater degree of safety and fire prevention for their community."

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program provides one-year grant funding to local fire departments to assist them in improving their ability to respond to fire-related and other emergencies in their communities. The funding is used primarily in three major program areas:

Operations and Firefighter Safety, Fire Prevention, and Firefighting Vehicles Acquisition.